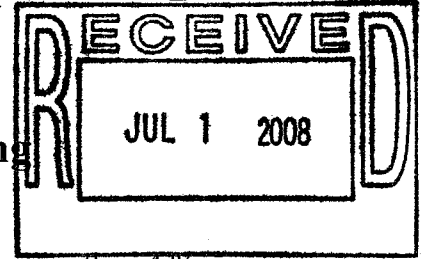


7/14/08 (14)



## Petition for a Special Town Meeting

Whereas: the average Acton tax bill is scheduled to increase by more than 4 % in Fiscal Year 2009 that began 1 July 2008; and

Whereas: the town has accumulated several million dollars in the Recycling and Transfer Station Enterprise Fund (formerly called the NESWC Enterprise Fund) for a potential liability which no longer exists; and

Whereas: the available balance in this Fund for the Fiscal Year 2009 is approximately \$ 4,000,000; and

Whereas: transferring \$ 2,414,809 from this Fund would make a tax increase unnecessary

therefore, this petition requests that the Acton Board of Selectmen schedule a Special Town Meeting pursuant to M.G.L.Ch. 39 s 10 to see if the voters will approve a transfer of funds to reduce the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2009 per the following Article :

### **Title : TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE**

**To see if the Town will transfer \$ 2,414,809 from the Recycling and Transfer Station Enterprise Fund for the purpose of reducing the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, or take any other action relative thereto.**

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**Christine Joyce**

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**From:** Clint Seward [cseward@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 01, 2008 10:53 AM  
**To:** Manager Department  
**Cc:** Clerk Department  
**Subject:** Petition for Special Town Meeting

To: Steve Ledoux:

This email is to confirm that we delivered a petition to your office this morning to advise you that we plan to request a Special Town Meeting for this Fall.

The goal is to give voters a choice to return \$2.5million of the roughly \$5 million of uncommitted town funds (NESWC and free cash) to the taxpayers so that no property tax increase will be needed this fiscal year while ensuring Town Meeting approved budgets will not be reduced.

Please ask Town Counsel to review the petition and render an opinion in the next few days if possible as to whether the wording of the petition is correct and sufficient to request a Special Town Meeting, and whether the wording of the Article is appropriate for the intended purpose. We think it is pretty straightforward, however, since it is a legal document, his written approval or suggested revisions would be appreciated.

Once we receive counsel's opinion we will collect the required signatures.

Your comments or suggestions would be appreciated.

Clint Seward, Acton Voters Group  
actonvotersgroup.com  
cseward@verizon.net

7/1/2008

# ACTON VOTERS GROUP

42 Washington Drive  
Acton, Massachusetts 01720

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Dick Calandrella

Cell Telephone --- 508-733-2705

E-Mail ----- [dickcalandrella@earthlink.net](mailto:dickcalandrella@earthlink.net)

## Special Town Meeting Requested By Newly Formed Acton Voters Group

Acton, MA 01720 (July 1, 2008) --- A special Town Meeting is being requested for the Fall of 2008 by a newly formed group of concerned Acton citizens who have adopted the name --- the Acton Voters Group.

Their goal is to place an article on the town warrant at that Special Town Meeting to give voters a choice to return a portion of some \$5 million of uncommitted town funds to the taxpayers so that a property tax increase will not be needed this fiscal year without cutting any approved budgets.

Specifically, this article will request that the Town of Acton transfer the sum of \$2.4 million (the exact amount is \$2,414,809) from the Recycling and Transfer Station Enterprise Fund (formerly known as the NESWC Enterprise Fund) into town revenues

to reduce the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 --- which, in effect, will result in no tax increase for property owners on their property tax bill.

“There are many citizens in Acton who are impacted by the continually rising property tax rates in our community, a situation only made worse by today’s troubling economy” said Acton Voters Group Chairman Clint Seward, “and we are proposing to give voters a choice that about half of the more than \$5 million of uncommitted town funds be returned to town revenues so that no property tax increase will be needed in this fiscal year.” Seward added that “this will not cause any budget cuts and every project voted for in the 2008 regular Town Meeting held this past April will move forward as planned.”

Seward noted that this is not a new or novel move since town reserves such as free cash have been used to reduce the tax rate in the past. In the fiscal year that just ended, the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the School Committee agreed on the Acton Leadership Group plan to use \$600,000 from free cash to reduce the amount that was raised from taxes, benefiting Acton taxpayers.

Seward said that a copy of the proposed article was personally delivered to the Acton Town Manager’s office, and that the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and the School Committee have all been informed of this effort. Seward also requested that Acton Town Counsel review the wording of the article.

A team of volunteers will begin a town-wide petition signature drive beginning on July 12, 2008 and continuing through August 9, 2008 at various locations across Acton to obtain 200 verified signatures that are required to request a Special Town Meeting.

“This is all about choice,” Seward said. “We are fortunate this year to have more than \$5 million in free cash and transfer station funds which is uncommitted, and this Special Town Meeting will give voters an informed opportunity to use a portion of these funds for property tax relief without cutting budgets.

“We hope that Acton taxpayers will support this effort, sign the petition, attend the Special Town Meeting in the Fall, and vote in favor of the article” he added.

For further information visit: [www.actonvotersgroup.com](http://www.actonvotersgroup.com)

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